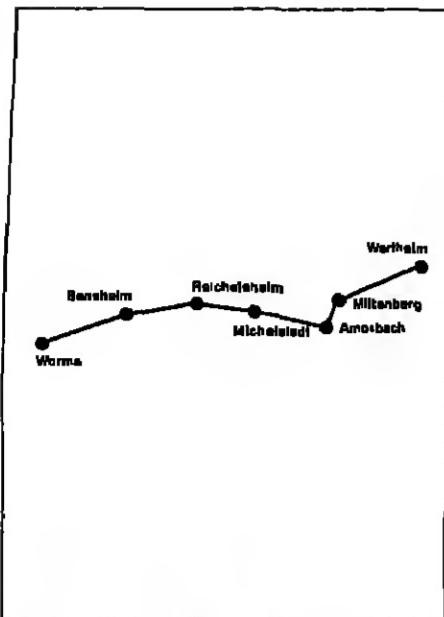


Routes to tour in Germany



The Nibelungen Route



German roads will get you there — to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there; going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered Rathaus. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.



3

- 1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
- 2 Miltenberg
- 3 Odenwald
- 4 Michelstadt
- 5 Wertheim

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3

Hamburg, 31 May 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1275 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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A horn player welcomes President Mitterrand (left) and Chancellor Kohl to the Bonn Embassy in Paris. Story this page.
(Photo: AP)

Varied response to Bonn's triple-zero option

DIE WELT

Chancellor Kohl's disarmament proposals have met with a varied response. His nine-point statement is cautious but it demands the inclusion in Geneva agreements of missiles with a range of between 10 and 500 kilometres.

In other words, he has come up with a triple zero option. It would mean no more land-based US or Soviet nuclear armament (missiles or artillery shells) west of the Soviet border.

Europe would be demilitarised (except for Britain and France). Kohl has also called for talks on conventional and chemical weapons, where the Warsaw Pact has the edge over Nato.

The Chancellor's proposals have been criticised by his political ally, CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, who says they are too open to conflicting interpretations.

They were welcomed immediately by Soviet spokesman Gerasimov.

They seem to point towards nuclear disengagement by the superpowers in Europe, which both the Chancellor's Office and the CDU/CSU parliamentary party had warned against.

The prospect of a triple zero might tempt the Soviet Union to resurrect the issue of third-state potential, meaning British and French nuclear missiles.

This cannot have been overlooked at the Chancellor's Office, and the risks the Chancellor's statement runs make it clear that Herr Kohl acted under pressure of developments.

The development in question was British support for the US-Soviet plan to scrap all land-based systems with ranges between 500 and 5,500km.

It is in the German and European interest for all ingredients that pose a security threat — nuclear, chemical and conventional — to be included in disarmament arrangements that don't run counter to security.

At the Stavanger conference of Nato Defence Ministers modernisation of missile systems with ranges of up to 500km was discussed. This is a range that mainly threatens Germany on both sides of the East-West border, doesn't affect other Nato territory and thus fails to trigger the deterrent effect of escalating a potential conflict.

US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger denied this scenario at Stavanger but is well known to have argued differently in the past. The Chancellor is bound to assume that the Americans are keen to ease their burden at Europe's expense.

That is why he opted for a triple zero option. The low-level control is not a new idea.

During the 1983 missile debate the Chancellor's Office drew up plans for

removing missiles with ranges between 150 and 500km.

There were two aims. One was to de-link conventional forces and tactical theatre nuclear weapons that are the nucleus of Soviet offensive strategy.

The second was to ease the burden on the Federal Republic posed by nuclear weapons in this range assuming an ongoing threat to Soviet marshalling areas between 500 and 1,800km behind the Iron Curtain.

This threat potential would be poised by the Pershing 2, an accurately targetable deterrent.

America and Russia have instead chosen to adopt what for them is the more convenient approach of arms control "from above."

For Moscow, zero options starting at longer ranges ease the threat to Soviet territory.

At the same time the West is saddled with security zones of varying quality, with a lower level of security for Germany.

The Chancellor feels this is no longer acceptable. His bid to join forces with Britain and France in stating the European security case has failed for the time being, but that doesn't mean the game is over.

The triple zero Helmut Kohl has set against the Soviet double zero has much in common with dumping all prices that ruin the market.

It amounts to serving notice to quit the West's present strategic approach and should lead, after Moscow's nod of approval, to the first serious US consultations with Bonn.

That was certainly what the Chancellor had in mind. Washington's disarmament concept is lacking in security logic for Europe. It uses an isolation strategy: the elimination of which takes the clout out of deterrence.

The development in question was British support for the US-Soviet plan to scrap all land-based systems with ranges between 500 and 5,500km.

The single zero option is generally accepted, if not enthusiastically, while M. Mitterrand has followed in Mrs Thatcher's footsteps and voiced approval of the double zero option comprising all missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,100km.

He may well have been motivated by the realisation that there is no point

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Ceruso the first to sense potential of immortality in new-fangled music disc

Lübecker Nachrichten

in swimming against the current and falling out of step with the neighbouring Germans.

In other words, the French President seems to assume that Bonn will eventually come round to accepting the double zero option.

Chancellor Kohl cannot, however, have failed to see that Premier Chirac has been extremely sceptical of Soviet salami tactics — one zero after another — since returning from Moscow.

His scepticism earned him Soviet accusations of being in love with the bomb and intent on sabotaging disarmament.

Despite Soviet protestations to the contrary, the French Premier is worried that Mr Gorbachov might try to browbeat Britain and France once medium-range US missiles have been withdrawn from Europe.

He feels the Soviet leader may try to harness public opinion in nuclear Britain and France to manoeuvre London and Paris into a situation in which they have no choice but to reduce their nuclear armament too.

French and German Foreign and Defense Ministers, meeting in Paris on 21 May, soon realised that their views differed on Mr Gorbachov's proposals.

At this meeting Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, seems sure to have been in the minority.

The French have voiced scepticism of the Soviet disarmament offensive, and Herr Wörner, the German Defence Minister, is sceptical too.

Klaus Hause
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 May 1987)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Superpowers busy SRINFing and LRINFing at Geneva sessions

While Nato countries debate the zero and double zero options the superpowers' delegations in Geneva are working flat out on framing a treaty to ban medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Chief delegates Giltman and Obukhov and their deputies meet as a rule five times a week at either the US or the Soviet missions, with diplomatic and military working parties providing extra back-up.

Their task is to check the technical details of the treaty draft submitted by the Soviet Union and the United States, to eliminate incongruities and, above all, to arrive at a version in keeping with the strict US guidelines on maximum verification.

Unless satisfactory terms are agreed on this point the Reagan administration could well find the treaty vetoed by Congress.

No-one who has seen for himself how thoroughly Mr Giltman and his staff go about their work in Geneva can doubt that much of the anxiety felt, especially in Bonn, about the possible consequences of a medium-range missile treaty is unwarranted inasmuch as Washington will not make the first move on nuclear arms limitation until the possibility of breaching or circumventing the treaty, as with Salt 2, is ruled out.

The US delegation in Geneva is guardedly optimistic, feeling that an LRINF, or longer-range intermediate nuclear forces, treaty on withdrawing Soviet SS-20 and US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe could be agreed this year and signed at a further summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev.

This arrangement would merely eliminate the threat posed by Western Europe by Soviet SS-20s by withdrawing six Soviet warheads for every American one.

That, as one US official notes, is as far as it goes, and Europeans who are worried would do well to remember that agreement on these terms is a significant step forward.

Consideration must, of course, also be given to shorter-range intermediate nuclear forces, SRINF for short, and any arrangements made must logically be seen in the LRINF context.

Yet even the abolition of shorter-range intermediate missiles, the double zero option, would mean more and not less security.

Never in the history of arms control have the superpowers discussed in such detail aspects that for years were rated inviolable secrets of their respective defences.

America plans to append to its LRINF treaty draft three annexes dealing solely with verification.

The verification complex consists of four points, the first being the destruction of SS-20s, Pershing 2s and cruise missiles that are to be scrapped.

Their destruction is to be undertaken in the presence of US and Soviet observers, and possibly of observers from other Nato and Warsaw Pact states.

It remains to be seen whether this merely means observation of the technicalities and the destruction of the carrier vehicles and the defusing and elimination of warheads or the whole process is to take place as a TV spectacular.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

don't form part of the agreed inspection area are to be checked.

And who is to say for sure, given the fairly small size of cruise missiles in particular, that no new SS-20s are being manufactured at a production facility that is under satellite surveillance?

Arrangements along Stockholm lines would provide at best for a contracting party whose suspicions have been aroused to give 36 hours notice of his intention to inspect the suspicious object for 48 hours no more than once a year.

The fourth point is equally controversial. The United States, forewarned by experience with the two Salt treaties, insists in Geneva that before any reduction in longer-range intermediate nuclear missiles in Europe an on-the-spot count of carriers and warheads is undertaken.

People feel that their own personal interests were affected, for example, by the problems facing the agricultural sector or the discussion about nuclear disarmament.

The United States would very much like to negotiate an equal reduction, strategic, long-range weapons which sees as the part of nuclear weapons that has the most destabilising element.

This is the point at which the Geneva negotiating teams come up against the

obstacle that has long僵持不決 between the superpowers.

It is that the figures submitted in protracted negotiation – often vaguely, America, for instance, has so far claimed 110 cruise missiles in West Europe, but the Soviet Union says its number is 25%.

Nato and the United States say Soviet SS-20 missiles stationed in the Urals are aimed at targets in Western Europe; the Soviet Union says its figure is 21%.

These details are what make it difficult to negotiate what for America the West are satisfactory, hard-and-fast terms.

SS-20s are highly mobile. Cruise sites are extremely difficult to locate. More important still, confidence built on the firm foundation of constant verification takes the place often ill-judged reliance on the old party word!

Last but not least, the crucial question for the Americans in Geneva is whether the proposed agreement on intermediate nuclear forces can pave way for a breakthrough in a sector which Washington is even keener.

People feel that their own personal interests were affected, for example, by the problems facing the agricultural sector or the discussion about nuclear disarmament.

The Hesse election showed that politicians and politicians have to be plausible to convince voters.

The Hamburg and Rhineland-Palatinate election show that voters have moved away from camps. Politicians

Jan Reijer
Frankfurter Allgemeine
für Deutschland, 21 May

The Iraqi missile attack on the US frigate "Stark" was a harsh reminder of the existence of the seven-year-old Gulf War.

It repeatedly tends to be forgotten despite an almost innumerable daily toll of casualties — people torn apart by shells and shrapnel.

The superpowers have responded with surprising circumspection to the latest incidents in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union and the United States eschewed strong words even when a Soviet tanker hit a mine and the US frigate was hit by Iraqi missiles, killing 37 men.

President Reagan's order to the US fleet to be on standby and fire as soon as they feel under attack is the very least they could do in the circumstances.

In addition to Gulf state vessels US, Soviet, British and French naval patrols seek to protect oil tankers from raids by Iraqi and Iranian aircraft.

So far they have held their fire. Even the Soviet Union, which threatened to give Soviet tankers sailing for Kuwait full naval protection if they were attacked, has failed to react as far as can be seen.

Iranian and Russians are both avoided any activity that might drag them directly into a war in which both have long been indirectly involved.

Moscow supports Baghdad while Washington has supplied Iran with weapons while providing Iraq with satellite photos of Iranian troop movements.

In the lee of the great powers arms dealers from all over the world are selling arms and equipment in the Middle East.

They not only do excellent business; they also gather intelligence on the performance of material sold.

The French, whose Exocet missile proved so deadly in the Falklands war, can point to the direct hit on the "Stark" as further proof of its efficiency.

There are political reasons why the profits to be earned from arms dealing with the Gulf states are unlikely to decline in the foreseeable future.

There can be few theatres in which a

Iraqi attacks in the Gulf a harsh reminder

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

war has so evidently been waged in the interest of all concerned, with the possible exception of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who started it.

The Iraqi President felt the confused situation in Iran after the Shah was ousted in 1979 was a not-to-be-missed opportunity of making territorial gains in the Shatt al-Arab.

This plan backfired. Iraq as an enemy has since given the mullahs an excellent opportunity of calling on the Iranian people to make increasingly exacting sacrifices.

Iranian domestic opposition has been almost totally destroyed and the Shi'ite mullahs can afford to be even more fanatical in their holy war to oust Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Moslem, from his palace in Baghdad.

Iran's population is three times that of Iraq, but Iran is unlikely ever to inflict a serious defeat on the Iraqi armed forces, which are much better equipped.

So far there are no signs of Saddam Hussein seeming likely to fall foul of domestic opposition either.

Even if he were to be pushed more to the defensive, which is unlikely, his allies would continue to back him.

Neither the Gulf states nor Israel nor the Soviet Union have the least interest in an Iranian victory, which would spread Islamic revolution and with it the declared aim of expelling the Jews from Jerusalem.

Yet the same countries would hate to see Iraq win, especially as Baghdad

threatened before the fighting began to emerge as the predominant state in the Middle East.

For years there has been next to headway in the Gulf War and there are few signs that anything is likely to change in the near future.

Given this state of affairs, the world seems to be only one way — an extremely dangerous one — to exert decisive influence on the fighting: internationalisation.

Arab commentators have suggested that internationalisation of the conflict is exactly what Saddam Hussein had in mind, implying that the attack on the frigate was anything but a mistake.

Military experts add that Mirage jets would need to be near-blind to see the target they aimed their missiles at, so the Iraqi leader may feel the powers would have a vital interest in ending the fighting once their own forces were threatened.

A ceasefire could indeed be brought about by means of a comprehensive arms embargo. If the combatants in political terms really want the Iranian and Iraqi peoples would long last have allies in their quest for peace.

If the superpowers fail to adopt a fresh approach thousands of people will continue to die pointless deaths month after month.

Michael Peter
Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 May

The German Tribune

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The remark not only relates to the

No. 1275 - 31 May 1987

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

ty must now realise that the Greens can no longer be seriously considered as potential partners.

Lafontaine, always ready to jump on any bandwagon which is going in the right direction, by no means regards the SPD as an "appendage to the big parties". His recent remarks about the Greens were exclusively derogatory.

State elections will be held in Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein in autumn, and in both cases the FDP has yet to obtain the five per cent of the vote needed for parliamentary representation.

In view of recent electoral shifts, the successful opening up of the FDP, the election losses of the CDU and the stopped downward trend of the SPD both elections are particularly significant.

In the meantime, the FDP has the opportunity to prove that it can do more than just make or break majorities for other parties and whether it can help ensure greater political stability.

All these developments are bound to have repercussions on the conservative-liberal coalition in Bonn.

The coming months are a test for the flexibility of both the CDU and the SPD, especially since issues alone are not the only problems which have to be resolved.

The days of thinking in terms of rigid political camps are over.

Günter Bräuer
(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 19 May 1987)

HOME AFFAIRS

Elections show voters more ready to change parties

Saarbrücker Zeitung

who felt that, in the near future at least, there would be basically two political camps, the CDU/CSU and FDP on the one hand and the SPD and Greens on the other, will have to do some rethinking.

Disarmament, especially when defined in such plausible terms by Moscow, has met with the approval and aroused the hopes of many West Germans.

The coalition in-fighting about zero and double-zero solutions is confusing.

The elections in Hamburg and in the Rhineland-Palatinate showed that voters want greater clarity. The FDP in Hamburg realised this and intends acting accordingly.

Some FDP politicians in Bonn, however, may find it difficult to stomach the probable SPD-FDP coalition in the city.

Although it is much too early to talk of an upward trend for the SPD the pur-

ty must now realise that the Greens can no longer be seriously considered as potential partners.

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Success of the professor unconventional

Ingo von Münch

(Photo: dpa)

Politically in, aesthetically out... Ingo von Münch.

party's personalities, but to the content of liberal policies.

Von Münch himself is in his element when it comes to law and order, internal security or the question of a free and democratic social system.

His party colleagues, however, are more versed in the kind of economic liberalism which has typified the fundamental political changes in Bonn since 1982.

During the campaign he advised the Social Democrats to take a break from power to regenerate themselves in opposition.

During the election campaign he could be seen rushing through Hamburg like greased lightning in an effort to combine his election and university commitments.

The 54-year-old professor of public law at the University of Hamburg has never left his university career.

He feels that politicians without a proper profession are a "great misfortune". This may explain why he seems so relaxed about the sharing out of the spoils of power following his party's success.

Von Münch enjoys being a professor and a credible politician.

He countered the criticism levelled by the Greens against the "establishment" parties by asking "What does establishment mean? Who's been in the city parliament for years, and who's been outside?"

Although many people in Hamburg know who von Münch is, the Hamburg FDP, with its 1,500 official members, is still very much an unknown quantity.

"Political wasteland begins behind von Münch," one journalist remarked,

and he's not all that wrong.

The remark not only relates to the

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Disarmament, especially when defined in such plausible terms by Moscow, has met with the approval and aroused the hopes of many West Germans.

The indications are that voters are reacting to more immediate events and issues rather than sticking with dogma.

■ SECURITY

Extremist groups not gaining ground, says agency

Frankfurter Allgemeine

There are about 22,000 members of extreme right-wing groups in West Germany, says the Verfassungsschutz, the counter-espionage agency.

It says that membership has remained static over the past few years, but admits that the figure is no more than an estimate.

It also says left-wing extremist groups are also not increasing membership. It points out that extremism of all shades get few votes at elections.

The agency says foreigners' extremist organisations were also not gaining ground in Germany.

The agency presents a white paper, which is like an annual report. It is compiled at the headquarters in Cologne and revised in Bonn by senior officials at the Interior Ministry, which holds overall responsibility for the report.

The first chapter deals with left-wing extremism in 1986, including both pro- and anti-Moscow groups.

This chapter has since 1983 included a section on left-wing terrorism, which earlier rated a separate chapter.

The second chapter deals with right-wing extremism. It is only a third as long as the first, which roughly corresponds to the membership ratio.

The third chapter looks into extremist activities by foreign residents, the fourth into counter-espionage, with a section — since 1985 — dealing with the more confidential aspects of preventive counter-espionage.

Much of the report relies on readily accessible sources of information such as leaflets, strategy papers, newspapers and magazines of the groups in question.

The report is partly intended as a contribution toward general political information.

The main-line organisations run by orthodox Communists, the Communist Party (DKP) and its youth and student movements, are said to have totalled about 64,000 members last year, or roughly the same figure as the year before.

The alliance policy pursued by the DKP at universities is outlined and claimed to have helped it to win 18 per cent of seats on student bodies.

The DKP sees itself as an "inseparable part of the international revolutionary movement." It continues in principle to advocate the use of force for revolutionary ends.

A new point made in the 1986 Verfassungsschutz report is that the DKP claims to operate in strict accordance with Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, "in order to conceal the unconstitutional nature of its objectives."

Its predecessor, the KPD, which was banned in the 1950s, was said to adopt the same tactics.

A reference is made to the 1950s ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court banning the KPD and describing its ties as "perversion" aimed at undermining constitutional government and democracy with reference to the constitution that guarantees them.

Over half the DKP's leading members were active members of the KPD; over a

third have attended courses in East Germany or the Soviet Union.

The DPK is said to try through a variety of organisations to gain influence on the peace movement. As in earlier years there are said to have been numerous alliances in which Communists and Social Democrats have collaborated on a basis of equality.

The DPK newspaper *Unser Zeid* is said to have published interviews with well-known Social Democrats and SPD members are said to have served on the governing bodies of DPK-influenced organisations.

The DPK is claimed to have been politically guided — "in a largely conspiratorial manner" — by the SED in East Berlin, which supplied it with funds totalling about DM65m.

The so-called New Left, which is neither run nor backed by the pro-Moscow Communists, is said to aim at eliminating the social system in the Federal Republic of Germany by revolutionary means.

The New Left includes Trots and so-called "K Groups" (they used mainly to be Maoist). New Left militants are said to have resorted to "terrorist practices."

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Over half the DKP's leading members were active members of the KPD; over a

right-wing extremist organisations included 1,500 neo-Nazis and 6,800 members of the NPD and similar groups.

The NPD, or National Democrats, often paid lip service to the Constitution and advocated a neutral German nation-state. Right-wing extremists had adopted environmental arguments and agitated against foreign residents and applicants for political asylum in the Federal Republic.

One group claimed the United States had been the main driving force behind the disaster it felt World War II to have been. Another noted:

"Let us not forget that the wartime Allies have found willing stooges in Bonn, from Adenauer to Kohl."

The leading neo-Nazi group is the Free German Workers' Party (FAP), which is said to have increased its membership to about 400. Militant neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists have resorted to violence.

Seventy-one acts of violence and 1,281 breaches of the law are attributed to them — but only one bomb raid and four cases of arson.

Political and economic stability ensured, despite fairly high unemployment, that West Germans are susceptible to political extremism.

This is partly due to the German historic experience of the Nazis and to the existence of a communist state in Germany.

This is a point that has been taken into account by the Soviets, whose actions are unconstitutional, and some of them have switched methods.

Instead of openly advocating democratic views they latch on to organisations whose members may, in the most part, be anything but democratic or unconstitutional in outlook.

An important point is that the detection of a leading Verfassungsschutz officer, Hans-Joachim Tiedje, to the GDR in summer 1985 did not seriously affect the Cologne anti-espionage agency's work, as had initially been feared.

Last year 43 people — 25 more than in 1985 — were held in connection with espionage activities.

Holger Buchholz

(Bremen Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)

Waking up to the role of the sleeper

Lübecker Nachrichten

They mailed their films to the GDR, but on one occasion they were sent back by the East German authorities because the parcel did not comply with East German postal regulations.

The West German Bundespost was unable to return it to the bogus sender and opened the parcel after the prescribed period to see what it contained.

The couple were identified, arrested, charged and sentenced.

The East Bloc leaves no stone unturned in its bids to come by Western high-tech data — by hook or by crook.

Firms in the Federal Republic that are known to be in financial difficulties are offered lucrative contracts in return for supplying goods the export of which is forbidden by the terms of the 1961 Foreign Trade and Payments Act.

Yet even East Bloc agents can suffer a stroke of bad luck. Take the amazing irony fate of one couple who for years had been sending back to East Berlin information about American troops in the Kaiserslautern area.

Economic espionage saves the Soviet Union billions it would otherwise have

Nipping trouble in the bud

Bonn Interior Minister Frieder Zimmermann says that "enemies of the Constitution" stand no chance in the Federal Republic.

He is right. But that doesn't mean complacency should be allowed to creep in. The Verfassungsschutz, Germany's Cologne-based counter-espionage agency, still needs to keep a close eye on political extremists.

It deserves much of the credit for suring that no anti-democratic organisation of any significance has gone a trichotomous in the Federal Republic.

Its agents have always kept tabs on such organisations at the grassroots stage and warned the public of their activities.

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Anxiety doesn't last. It is deep-seated but fleeting — or at least tends to switch the object to which it attaches. It is unreliable.

Kremlin psychologists are convinced that to gain German support they must offer the Germans something constructive, something likely to keep them preoccupied with themselves.

At the time of the talks against nuclear power must surely realise that extremists in their ranks will tend to harm their cause. "Enemies of the Constitution" have more in mind than peace on atomic energy.

Holger Buchholz

(Bremen Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Soviet proposal on German reunification fires imaginations and illusions

DIE WELT

Are reports of a Soviet proposal to consider German reunification honest? Or are they just speculation launched by a handful of Germans?

Either way, they have promptly triggered a public debate that has outstripped disarmament.

They preoccupy the imagination not only in terms of a greater or lesser threat; they also fuel the fires of a German tendency to harbour illusions.

Germany is quick to see a possibility as a certainty. Mr Gorbachov is said to have a grand design.

Preoccupation with the man sets aside sober appraisal of what is possible and increases the possibility of error. More and more people may be drifting further and further away from reality.

Moscow knows that the Germans are easily excited or upset. Under the new man in the Kremlin it has also come to realise that merely stirring up anxiety is not enough to gain political ground.

Anxiety doesn't last. It is deep-seated but fleeting — or at least tends to switch the object to which it attaches. It is unreliable.

Kremlin psychologists are convinced that to gain German support they must offer the Germans something constructive, something likely to keep them preoccupied with themselves.

An evergreen in this respect is the Germans' predisposition to concern themselves with the future of their country, divided since the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union has made several attempts to rechannel in their own direction political currents in Europe and further afield, the first being between 1952 and 1954.

Stalin started the ball rolling. Khrushchev had another go in 1964. On both occasions power changed hands — in Moscow.

Yet Soviet strategists have only ever had one aim in view: to prevent, forestall or break up the Atlantic alliance, which would not be viable without the Federal Republic of Germany as a member.

Companies of this kind are particularly well suited to double as sources of illicit information.

An East German agent who made advances to a woman working in telecommunications for the Bundeswehr invited her and her boyfriend to spend the weekend in Venice with him.

A most generous host on previous visits to casinos, he offered the woman DM5,000 in cash over a slap-up meal with champagne and all the trimmings at a luxury hotel in Venice.

She threatened to report him to the Bundeswehr. He realised she was an informant that was unlikely to pay dividends and beat a hasty retreat.

The East Bloc leaves no stone unturned in its bids to come by Western high-tech data — by hook or by crook.

Firms in the Federal Republic that are known to be in financial difficulties are offered lucrative contracts in return for supplying goods the export of which is forbidden by the terms of the 1961 Foreign Trade and Payments Act.

Its report for 1986 says this was not the case. Twenty-six GDR agents in the Federal Republic were identified, putting the knot on the other foot!

Friedrich Kuhn

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)



(Cartoon: Walter Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

Encouraging German introspection and eliminating the very foundation of an effective US political and military presence in Europe is a lasting Soviet imperial aim.

The incorporation of the Federal Republic of Germany (and Japan) in the pattern of US allies is the most serious political defeat the Soviet Union has suffered since the war — followed in 1960 by the loss of China as a Soviet ally.

But this move would lead to the loss of Soviet chessmen on the international board. The nations of eastern central Europe and Germans east of the Elbe would tend toward a "neutral," middle-of-the-road position.

Would the glue of the Soviet empire be sufficient to keep them together? That is very hard to tell.

That is why every Soviet leader who sets himself the target of creatively safeguarding his imperial power will make a fresh attempt to break the bounds of his military borders and drive the United States out of Eurasia.

The incentive Moscow can offer Japan — the Kurile islands — is less interesting than the option it can offer a divided Germany.

Both the German domestic debate and the Euro-American debate show how the Russians can make military, political and psychological gains by disarmament proposals involving partial US withdrawals from Europe.

What is lacking is the grand design, the offer that can't be refused.

If Mr Gorbachov establishes a link of any substance between military disengagement and political solutions for continental Europe — a link the Americans at present fail to establish — progress, as Count Lambsdorff says, with a post-Bismarckian gesture, might be made.

It certainly would in Germany, and it is only as the result of misinformation, if alone could be enough to make the national debate in Germany come to a head over the country's elected political representatives.

Mr Gorbachov and his planners may be fascinated by the idea of a Pax Sovietica in Europe, militarily and politically ejecting the United States from Europe by means of disengagement and setting up a German federation (not a reunited Germany) with an economic bias toward the East.

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Heribert Krenn

(Die Welt, Bonn, 15 May 1987)

Forum with Poles covers better relations, security, debts

This declaration is ready to be signed except for a clause dealing with Berlin.

It is for the Soviet Union to decide when to give the go-ahead by including Berlin.

The forum finally came up with a number of suggestions on how to improve bilateral ties, such as the work of the joint commission on school textbooks, further town-twinning arrangements, collaboration on publications, youth exchange and the reuniting of divided families.

No headway was made on the proposal to set up a youth encounter centre in Kreisau — and none on the idea of setting up a German-Polish youth exchange scheme along the lines of the Franco-German scheme.

The forum's recommendations are first referred to a joint steering committee that meets regularly between full sessions. The steering committee refers them to the appropriate political and economic bodies in the two countries.

■ THE WORKFORCE

State training schemes help those who miss out

Hannoversche Allgemeine

State-sponsored schemes are coming to the rescue of young people unable to find apprenticeships or other training places.

Schemes such as the Lower Saxony Training Programme (ANP) aim to help out where private industry has failed to provide enough jobs.

Last year, 730,000 applicants tried for apprenticeships in Germany and 44,000 were rejected. Many of those 44,000 now attend government training courses.

In Lower Saxony alone 6,700 last year applied for places in the state government scheme, which began in 1983.

Since then institutions such as adult education centres, private schools and trade unions have been receiving public money to train young people in over 50 different jobs.

Together with normal in-plant trainees they attend the vocational school and take their exams at the corresponding chambers.

The first ANP trainees finished their courses at the supplementary schools just over a year ago.

"They did just as well in the exams, which are comparable with those at

state-run schools, as the in-plant trainees," said the spokesman for the Union of Salaried Employees (DAG) schools, Hans-Jürgen Hoffmann.

And what about their chances of finding a job? The job prospects of pupils who have completed ANP courses, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education and Science claims, are good.

Employment offices also confirmed that their job placement chances are just as high or low as the trainees who received in-plant training only.

Roughly 1,250 of the 1,450 trainees who successfully completed the ANP programme in January 1986 had either found a job, begun military service or started attending further training courses four months later.

Hoffmann pointed out, many firms have simply stopped training young people, even though they urgently need manpower.

This is where the government is expected to fill the breach and, as it were, finance the know-how of future employers in private industry.

ANP pupils by no means feel like "second-class" trainees or "outcasts" of the working world.

After all, all the Land of Lower Saxony is doing is to top up the short supply of apprenticeships.

On the whole, the ANP pupils are not afraid of the future. Special courses also exist in Lower Saxony for the less qualified.

fied applicants. One 21-year-old, for example, spoke with satisfaction about his ANP apprenticeship as a joiner: "I can devote more attention to a single piece here," he explained.

"In a craft enterprise I would have to work much faster."

Instead of producing pieces in series, he can take the time to file and plane his items. And what are his plans after the ANP apprenticeship? "I'm not sure. Maybe I'll study architecture."

Some school-leavers take advantage of the ANP programme as a "stopover" before starting to study or as an alternative to the period of practical training needed for their studies.

Another 21-year-old wants to study mechanical engineering after training as an engineering draughtsman.

School-leavers try to acquire skills in the industrial and technical field before going to university.

Klaus Galonska from the Hanover employment office recalls that there were over 100 applicants for a training place in tailoring last year.

On the "free market", however, there were only seven vacancies. The rest went to the supplementary schools.

Practical training as a tailor (or dressmaker) is often the first step on the way to studying fashion and design.

ANP pupils receive a monthly training allowance of DM395.

Lower Saxony, which has invested roughly DM415m in the ANP training programme so far, has also agreed to pay the social insurance contributions of ANP trainees.

There is still an appreciable nationwide demand for government support when seeking a training place. A whole series of vocational training measures exists in all federal states, whether in the form of in-plant training or the establishment of government-financed apprenticeships or schools.

The demographic development, however, reduces the potential manpower for the job.

These trainees are not included in the unemployment statistics.

Young people taking part in commercial training courses have particular problems finding a job.

The current job placement ratios in Lower Saxony cannot disguise this fact.

Hard-hit

Young women are particularly hard hit, since they often move from the training to the further training stage.

Even though they have been told about their poor job prospects by the employment office many young women still opt for training as a commercial clerk.

Although the chance of getting a job improves with every further training course a lot of young people want to work rather than keep on learning.

This is at any rate the experience of careers advisers.

Many women also choose traditionally female jobs in the ANP programme, for example office work and domestic science.

Yet the government training schemes provide a good opportunity to do away with the usual role patterns.

One 21-year-old, for example, is learning computer electronics at a DAG school, a branch generally considered to be a male domain.

Anyone can apply for a place in the Lower Saxony training programme. Both the Ministry of Education and Science and the DAG are satisfied with the success of their initiative so far.

However, the Lower Saxony government is very reserved when it comes to future predictions for the special pro-

Continued on page 7

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Demand growing for women executives

Sheer demand is likely to increase the number of women in executive positions over the next few years, a management conference in Wiesbaden has been told.

Managements in some firms are getting so old that wholesale replacement will soon be necessary. The need for qualified management is great and more and more qualified women are coming through.

Delegates from leading German companies spoke against introducing a quota system for women in senior jobs. They felt this would only lead to increased efforts to get around the regulations.

Arrangements similar to the ones reached with Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt have been made by Soviet banks with banks in Finland, France and Italy.

The German bank sees the agreement as an opportunity of reactivating trade ties between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dresdner was the first West German bank to open a representative office in Moscow back in 1973. Joint ventures are clearly an attempt by the Soviet authorities to produce at home what would otherwise have to be imported at great expense.

Vsevolod S. Murakovsky, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, had earlier announced that talks were already being held on plant protection and agricultural machinery production.

The first enquiry has already been received. Erich Gerlach, head of the Brmas Group in Frankfurt, is delighted the group has been set up.

His firm is the largest manufacturer of roofing materials in the Federal Republic and he has hoped for over a decade to be able to build a roof tile works in the Soviet Union.

Soviet experts are said to have been keenly interested in Brmas products for some time, the demand for roofing materials in the Soviet Union being enormous.

Brmas already have a joint venture in Hungary.

While Mr Gorbachev's joint venture plan is taking more definite shape the Soviet Union seems to be having difficulty with small firms in the private sector, which are now legal.

It was reported in mid-May that only 4,500 people had registered as small-scale private entrepreneurs in Moscow by May Day.

The authorities had discouraged would-be private-sector businessmen, smothering them with red tape.

In one case the authority had shown detective zeal in demanding information from a would-be private businessman on how he proposed to come by the supplies his firm would need.

Trade with the East Bloc was down last year for the first time in years.

Provisional estimates show import-export trade to have declined to DM47.1bn from DM54.2bn in 1985.

Exports were down DM2bn to DM25.9bn and imports down DM5.2bn to DM21.2bn, a slump in trade with the Soviet Union being mainly to blame.

German imports from Russia plummeted from DM13.6bn to DM9.4bn, due for the most part to lower oil and gas prices.

With foreign exchange earnings down,

Moscow placed fewer orders in the Federal Republic, so that German exports

were down from DM10.5bn to DM9.4bn.

A confidential Finance Ministry report to the Bundesbank committee further reveals that export credit guarantees have declined markedly as well, from DM158.3bn to DM147.2bn worldwide.

The East Bloc countries accounted for DM2.5bn of this decline, with the Soviet Union's share down DM1.4bn to DM14.4bn.

There is a general downturn in trade with petroleum-exporting countries.

Lithuanian imports were halved last year to DM5.5bn — and Libya has long been hot on Saudi Arabia's heels as a leading German export client.

Bids to renegotiate sovereign debt arrangements with Poland for capital and interest due in 1986 failed "on account of heavy payment commitments and limited debt capacity."

An agreement initialled in March 1986 was not signed.

Klaus Dieter Oehler

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 May 1987)

Heinz Stürtz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 May 1987)

Karin Dietzler

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 May 1987)

No. 1275 - 31 May 1987

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

Russians open the door to joint ventures

Salamander, a leading West German shoe manufacturer, plans building and running shoe factories jointly with the Proletarian Victory combine in Leningrad and the Red Star combine in Vitebsk, Byelorussia.

Chief executive Franz-Josef Dazert says: "If we are to be the largest shoe manufacturer in Europe we must have a presence in all European markets, especially the largest." — and that means, among others, the Soviet Union.

The new reform course of Moscow leader Mr Gorbachev now makes this possible.

Yer despite the wide range of experience gained in dealing with East Bloc countries the plan to set up joint ventures in the Soviet Union is an entirely new move.

Advice will deal with everything, from launching problems, day-to-day running problems, financing and profit.

A joint venture with combines organised along planned economy lines is totally different from licensing manufacturers in Hungary, Yugoslavia or East Germany to make shoes to Salamander specifications and with the Salamander brand-name.

The differences start with how concepts are defined," Herr Dazert says. Soviet balance sheets are a far cry from what Western accountants draw up. Soviet planners haven't a clue what Western firms mean by cash flow.

Assistance

The Soviet government naturally offers advice and assistance in setting up joint ventures. So does Dresdner Bank of Frankfurt, one of the Federal Republic's Big Three private banks.

But no one yet knows how profits to which a German partner might be entitled are to be converted from rubles into marks and repatriated.

This being the case, how can joint ventures possibly hope to succeed?

The Soviet leaders are clearly most interested in them, although aims and objectives seem to have changed within six months.

When Mr Gorbachev realised early in 1986 that the ailing Soviet economy could no longer be put back on its feet solely by economic planning he embarked on a course of economic reform.

Glasnost, or a more open society, was joined as a slogan by perestroika, or restructuring. Mr Gorbachev used them as though they could be equated with peace and progress.

The proposed opportunity for West-

Shoe maker looks forward to putting soles on Soviet feet

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

transfer lines, one third to be exported, two thirds for the Soviet market.

Less courageous colleagues call Lang, 47, an incorrigible optimist, but he feels the risk is no less calculable than for other contracts.

Details, he says, need to be clarified in practice, and not at the negotiating stage.

Salamander's Dazert agrees: "Problems will naturally arise, but we are not out to make maximum profits; we hope to improve economic ties on a long-term basis."

Salamander has held talks in the Soviet Union for years, first on licence agreements and now on joint ventures.

Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT) and of the German industrial committee on trade with the East, also stresses the long-term benefits.

Soviet orders are likely to decline initially. "That," the DIHT president says, "is only natural when such far-reaching changes are involved."

That brings us to a further risk joint ventures run, Herr Dazert may be convinced that joint ventures will for the most part have a free hand where manpower is concerned, rationalisation could encounter stiff resistance in the corridors of Soviet power no matter how indispensable they might seem by Western standards.

Difficulties

Herr Dazert does not foresee redundancies, merely transfers from one department to another. But these transfers could well come up against resistance not even trade unions would offer in the Federal Republic.

Soviet trade unionists certainly don't seem to be entirely agreed with what Mr Gorbachev has described as a "transition from extensive to intensive growth."

At their last congress in Moscow they were not wholehearted in their approval of Mr Gorbachev's plans. Besides, Soviet practice still lags well behind the theory expounded by Party leaders.

Entire industries scheduled for restructuring along free-market lines have evidently yet to be given adequate preparation for the change.

The chairman of the textile workers' union told the congress that central planning and procurement authorities had failed to ensure that supplies were available in sufficient quantity.

■ BUSINESS

Ashes to ashes: sales of cigars, cigarillos drop

RHEINISCHER MERKUR
Colmar 1940

Cigar and cigarillo sales in Germany were more than 900 million marks a year in the 1950s. A generation later, in 1985, sales had dropped to 600 million marks.

In 1986 the figure had dropped again, by 3.3 per cent to 580 million marks. In quantity terms the drop was from 1,637 billion single cigars to 1,527 billion.

When the Bundespost issued a stamp to commemorate the 90th birthday of Ludwig Erhard, father of West Germany's post-war economic miracle, characteristically smoking a Havana cigar, anti-smokers rose in uproar.

The Bundespost ignored the outcry, but that does not hide the fact that smoking is getting more and more unpopular. Increased awareness of health hazards are hitting the industry.

But it is not just the health question that is giving manufacturers concern. They have only themselves to blame for many of their troubles.

They have not done enough to dispel the grandfather image associated with cigar smoking.

When the industry united a few years ago for public relations and advertising purposes, the agency they used could not come up with anything better than a slogan proclaiming, "Peace and quiet with a good cigar."

It was quite unsuitable for the younger generation that lays great store on dynamism. Cinema advertising is expensive and did not get at its potential target group.

Since then individual industry members have gone it alone in promoting their products and they seem to have learned something at least from the past.

Cigar and cigarillo advertising is now directed more towards consumers and not as in the past almost entirely towards the trade.

The industry has another weakness; its confused production range. There are approximately 2,500 different makes of cigar and cigarillo, some produced in very small quantities.

This is not going to win consumer

loyalty to one brand as is the case in the competing cigarette industry that has only 150 different makes.

However, something is also being done about this. The Dannemann cigar factory in Lübeck has reduced its range from 320 different types of cigar and cigarillo in 1982 to 105 now.

Dannemann is part of the Melitta Group and is the second largest manufacturer in the Federal Republic. The largest is the Arnold André-Zigarettenfabrik in neighbouring Bünde, East Westphalia remains a major centre of German cigar production.

The industry's history stretches back into the past century, when tobacco importers from Bremen looked for a suitable workers in the port's hinterland to roll cigars.

They found them among former linen weavers, who had shown that they had nimble fingers in the linen industry.

Even today East Westphalia producers employ people in the traditional way; they work at home, for instance in the skilled work of separating the tobacco leaves.

There has been a move away from cigars to cigarillos. In 1985 cigars accounted for 25 per cent of the total market, but last year they dropped back to 25 per cent and in the first quarter of this year the cigar market fell again to 24 per cent of the total.

Over the same period there was an increase in cigarillo sales from 74 per cent to 76 per cent.



Cigars are out, cigarillos slightly less out. (Photo: Poly-Preis)

Tax-based definitions regard all tobacco products with a weight per article greater than three grams as "cigars," articles lighter in weight than three grams are cigarillos. The industry itself, however, does not take this narrow view.

Changes have occurred in the cigar and cigarillo market. The most obvious feature is the trend to high-value products. In 1986 this policy brought about a reduction in turnover but it was not so great as the drop in sales volume.

There have been shifts of importance sections of the industry. With coronas, sold for 10, 50 or 60 pfennigs per cigar are making a loss, which is not surprising since they have now significantly increased in price for decades, that quality has fallen by the wayside.

On the other hand high-priced, with natural cutters have continued to do well.

The top makes of cigar at prices of two or three digits do not play a significant role in the business. Their only influence is as status symbols.

The trend to high-priced cigarillos is very noticeable. The market for 100 per cent tobacco cigarillos with natural filters, round and slim in shape, priced at 50 to 50 pfennigs each, is growing. Cheap single leaf cigarillos are losing out in the market.

Back home in Rüsselsheim he failed to persuade his father that the sewing machine was the shape of things to come. So he started his own firm in an empty cow-shed that belonged to a friendly uncle.

Opel had a buyer for his first machine, but when he crossed the Main by ferry to Flörsheim with his second he was stoned by a mob of journeymen tailors who, in Ludde fashion, were worried the sewing machine would put them out of work.

Business boomed. Later that year he took on his first employee and invented a new model.

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■ COMPUTERS

Firms call for practical instruction to be part of general education

Computer freaks are not in demand for commerce. The need instead is for young people entering business careers to have a solid grounding in computers so that they can use them properly.

This is one of the conclusions of a survey of 161 firms which handle data with computers. The poll was conducted by the Institute for the German Economy (IW). The sampling was random, but the institute nevertheless considers that the opinions thrown up are representative.

All respondents recognised the importance of computer-science training, especially in vocational schools. But there was also a wide body of opinion that training should be widened to non-vocational schools; that all schools with the exception of primary schools and special schools for slow-learners should

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also have computer-science classes. The respondents thought that computer-science should be part of a general education.

Reinhold Weiss, who assessed the survey, estimates that only between 5 and 10 per cent of school pupils have had anything at all to do with a computer by the time they finish school. This showed the need for schools to play a bigger role.

Poll respondents said the first role of the computer in schools should be as a teaching medium with the accent on the practical. Pupils should use the computer to solve a variety of problems in practical ways.

Big industrial research centre planned

Plans have been revealed for a new science park and research area in the Danube city of Ulm, in Baden-Württemberg.

Six big companies have come to agreement with the *Land* government of Premier Lothar Späth. *Land* is being given by the state. Industry is paying for 60 per cent of the costs and the *Land* government the rest.

It is hoped that 70 per cent of the running costs will be covered by research contracts from industry. It is anticipated that by 1989 there will be 400 researchers on the payroll.

The firms involved are Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Mannesmann-Kienzle, Nixdorf Computer, Siemens and Daimler-Benz.

Daimler-Benz is to set up a large research centre initially on 40 hectares of land acquired from the state. There is to be a science park specially geared to the needs of smaller and middle-sized firms where they will be able to work closely with researchers. Work groups are being established in order to work out the details.

A faculty of engineering science is planned and there are to be special

Continued from page 13

gen carriers in concentrated form. If the patient has donated blood at fortnightly intervals beforehand, blood deep-frozen and saved for the operation, he can be given a combination of lost blood and plasma that is, to all intents and purposes, fresh blood — and his own.

At Tübingen University Hospital 1,200 autotransfusions have been carried out since 1983. In 400 cases blood lost during surgery has been combined with the patient's own plasma.

Autotransfusion, the Tübingen specialists say, is almost always possible — except in operations in infectious areas and on malignant tumours.

Professor Schorer is convinced the technique will soon, after a trial period,

become standard practice at all clinics and main hospitals. He says the cost should be slightly lower than that of conventional blood transfusions, but wider use of the new technique is hampered by a shortage of staff and refrigerated storage facilities.

The Tübingen anaesthetists hope their initial successes will qualify them at least for *Land* grants to continue with their research work. Anaesthetist Meno von Fink says reuse of the patient's own blood during surgery is a longstanding technique.

But unless the blood is cleansed to concentrate the red corpuscles it can be fatal because blood tends to coagulate the moment it comes into contact with air.

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(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 May 1987)

Attitudes towards home computers

Students show they have taken the bite between their teeth

The other questions also showed that most of the respondents had at least a basic knowledge of data processing. There were, however, some differences between the sexes: men and boys knew much more, said Rüdiger Falk of the institute.

A lot also depended on what sort of school the respondent had attended or was attending. Vocational school pupils had the best data-processing knowledge. Senior specialist-school pupils came next followed by *Gesamtschule* (secondary modern) pupils and *Haupschule* (intermediate) pupils. He was somewhat surprised that *Gymnasium* (academic secondary school) pupils had the least knowledge.

In all groups, there were clearly more who had an interest in the subject than those who had actually worked with a computer.

In the *Haupschule* group, 97 per cent wanted to increase their knowledge compared with 44.1 per cent who had actually had word-processing experience.

However, he said that there was positive groundswell of opinion about the possibilities of data processing.

However, those over 18 of both sexes were much more skeptical about computers as those under 18.

The younger the respondent, the greater the wish for an own computer: 60.3 per cent of those up to 14 years down to 14.3 per cent for those over 20.

Christian Gey

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 May 1987)

Continued from page 13

mean for quality of life; only one eighth of the girls concurred.

Michael Vaupel

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 15 May 1987)

Braille editing system to help the blind

There are hopes that a piece of equipment called the Braille Editor will open new avenues of study and careers for blind people.

The apparatus, developed at the computer-science department of Karlsruhe University, has already been put through its paces in schools and firms.

Beginning from this winter semester blind students will use it. At first use will be limited to computer science and certain engineering disciplines; it is expected eventually to be broadened.

Both blind and sighted people communicate through the editor, which is an adapted personal computer which text and graphics are electrically stored. The teacher can enter using a normal keyboard and read in the normal way on a screen.

The blind person is able to enter, change text by using a braille keyboard and read both text and graphic work on a vibrating tactile screen which vibrates with the hand.

Part of the system can be used and transported — taken to lecture example, where the blind student record what he or she wants on a disc. Eventually the system should be applicable to many fields of study for the blind and partly blind.

Over the next five years, up to 100 blind students a year are expected to use the existing hardware and software in doing so, also help improve them.

One aim is to fully combine the system's tactile capabilities with audio features and thus increase the sophistication. Results of the experiment will be evaluated and tested in a library.

Birthe Hildebrand

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 8 May 1987)

■ FRONTIERS

Caruso the first to sense potential of immortality in new-fangled music disc

Bremer Nachrichten

One hundred years ago, on 16 May 1887, Emil Berliner, a German-American from Hanover, publicly demonstrated the first gramophone record.

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The first music recording was a concert solo of "Yankee Doodle" made by Jules Levy in New York.

Singers of classical music, however, decried to have their voices recorded. They regarded the new-fangled machine as not quite befitting their status, not least because well-known popular singers had had their voices recorded.

The American inventor Thomas Edison discovered sound recording in 1877 with his phonograph. It was the first machine to record and reproduce sound and the tone was, of course, not good.

Edison rented out his invention for 10 dollars a time to showmen. People were fascinated. A machine that could reproduce speech and music!

A singer would also achieve a kind of immortality by being recorded. Emil Berliner improved Edison's machine considerably.

Instead of a roll he used a flat record made of shellac to carry the sound. The first to use Berliner's invention was Deutsche Grammophon-Gesellschaft in Hanover.

The first two-sided records came onto the market in 1904. A London record firm marketed the first long-playing records between 1906 and 1908, mainly light music and operetta.

These records had a diameter of 50 centimetres and played for up to 12 minutes — a considerable advance over the two minutes that Edison's rolls played for.

The next long-playing records had a diameter of 25 to 30 centimetres and played for 21 minutes. They weighed between 500 and 750 grams and were six millimetres thick.

Soon after the development of radio the record industry, in 1925, went in for recording and reproducing electrically.

Instead of having to sing into a giant horn artists used a microphone.

A new generation of record-players

were also produced. The sound was no longer reproduced by a membrane through a horn but electronically with a needle.

This unleashed a boom in the record industry, because music and words were almost true to the original.

Plastics replaced shellac after the war. Poly-vinyl was cheaper, almost unbreakable and the grooves could be made smaller.

In 1948 long-playing records appeared on the market. The first LPs from the American recording company Columbia had a playing time of 23 minutes each side. These first LPs were recordings of Mendelssohn's violin concerto, Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony and the Broadway musical *South Pacific*.

Ten years later the first stereo records appeared in the record business.

Then came quadrophonic sound using four loud speakers, until compact discs (CDs) hit the market in 1980.

The indentation on the CD is very slight. An arm no longer passes over the record to produce the sound, but a laser beam.

CDs are only 11.5 centimetres in diameter and have a playing time of an hour.



Started off a long player... Emil Berliner.

(Photo: dpa)

Because the surface of the record remains untouched the records do not wear out.

The first Golden Disc was awarded to Glen Miller in 1942 for his *Chattanooga Choo Choo* from the American film *Vulley Serenade*.

Within a few months of it appearing the record sold more than a million copies.

In honour of the event recording company RCA had a gift copy of the record produced.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 13 May 1987)

Gongs for all occasions, even if some have a hollow ring

STUTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

sive collection of orders made by General Hugo von Winterfeldt at the turn of the century, glittering and colourful and with stones that are usually real. The collection includes 12 grand crosses, 18 insignia of commanders of knightly orders (worn round the neck) and an incredible number of knights' crosses.

Hussars lieutenant Alfred Dietz, from Hanover, ended his life as an insurance salesman.

Unlike his senior officer comrade-in-arms in the First World War, the general, he bought his row of medals from a mail-order house.

But the lieutenant was not too concerned about the truth. On the same day he ordered for himself the military medals for the battles of Verdun, Champagne and Argonne.

The oldest item in the Lüdenscheid Museum, and the rarest, is not particularly prepossessing. It is the Order of German Honesty dating from 1689. It is just a coloured piece of metal, but, according to Nimmergut, it is unique.

The most valuable item in the collection is the cordon of the Order of the House of Brunswick that changed hands a few years ago for DM 125,000.

Nimmergut can recommend a cheap award for collector beginners. A cross from the First World War can be had for eight marks, a medal that was pinned to the breast of about eight million soldiers.

dpa

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 15 May 1987)



Look, son, I'm a hero.

(Photo: dpa)